Harassment of SSI Units due to Inspector Raj

1326. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industry Units often complaint about the prevalence of Inspector Raj harassing them on plea of safety, security and environment; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to check their harassment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government have occasionally received representations from industry associations and Small Scale Industries (SSI) units about the prevalence of Inspector Raj. Government have already introduced a system of inspection based on selection of units from defaulters list in the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). In addition, Government have recommended to all the State Governments that they consider putting in place of self-Certification System wherein returns submitted on various labour laws by small scale units are certified and this may be treated as *prima facie* compliance. Under this system inspections would be conducted only when essential *i.e.* on receipt of written, verifiable and signed complaints from stakeholders.

Government had also entrusted a study for simplification of laws, rules and procedures affecting the SSI sector to the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI). The draft of a Small Enterprises Development Bill received from ASCI, *inter alia,* seeks to reduce the rigour of labour related inspections on SSIs.

Increase in quantum of advances to SSI

1327. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of advances to SSI sector have increased during the last year in spite of industrial slump;

(b) whether the quantum of credit flow to the SSI sector is adequate to meet the requirements of the funds for SSI sector in the year 2002-03; and